

THE LONELIEST GIRL





Mike



Toki Dokke



Koji



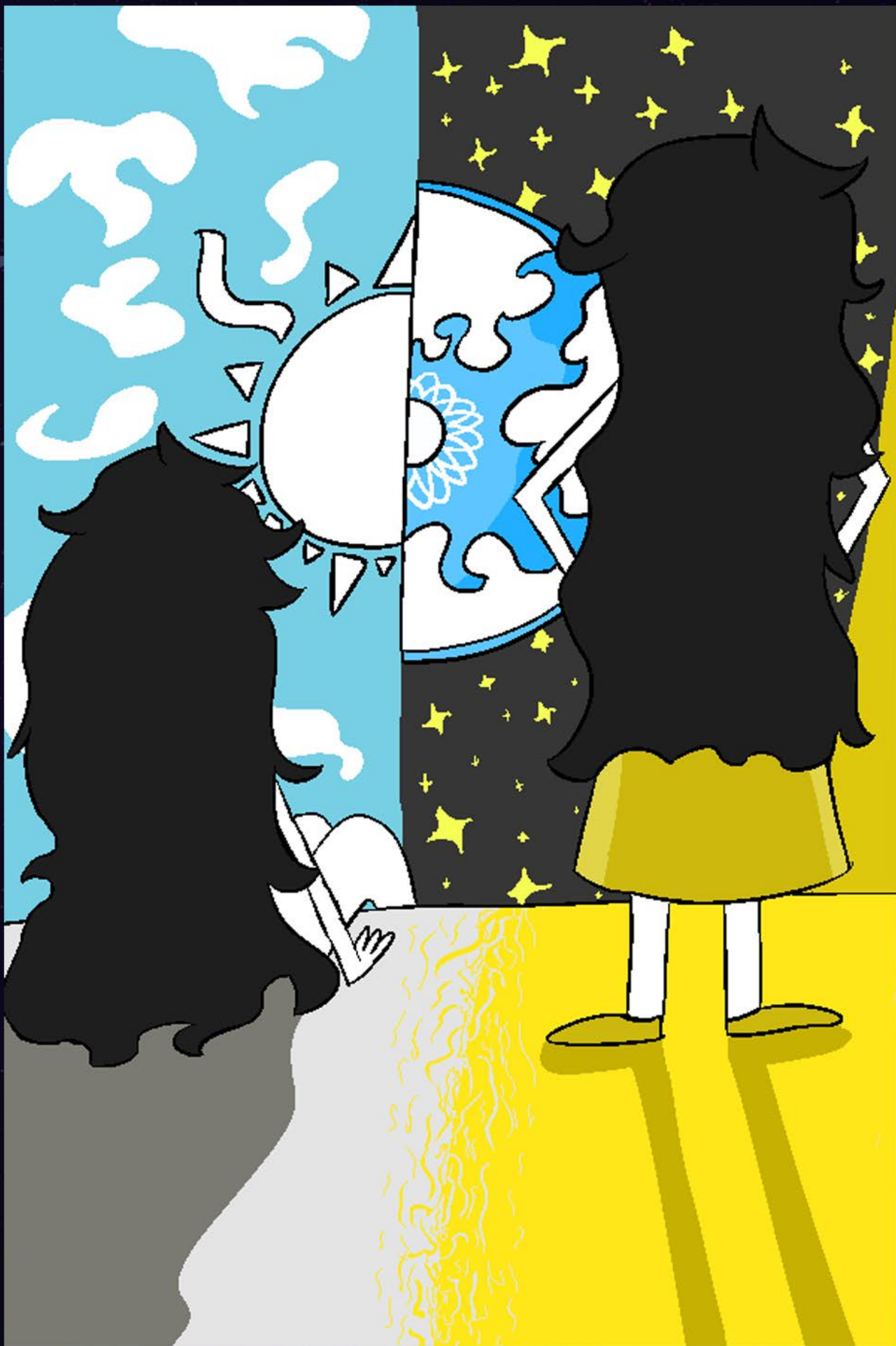
Andy



Raine /ArtsicFox



Chumi



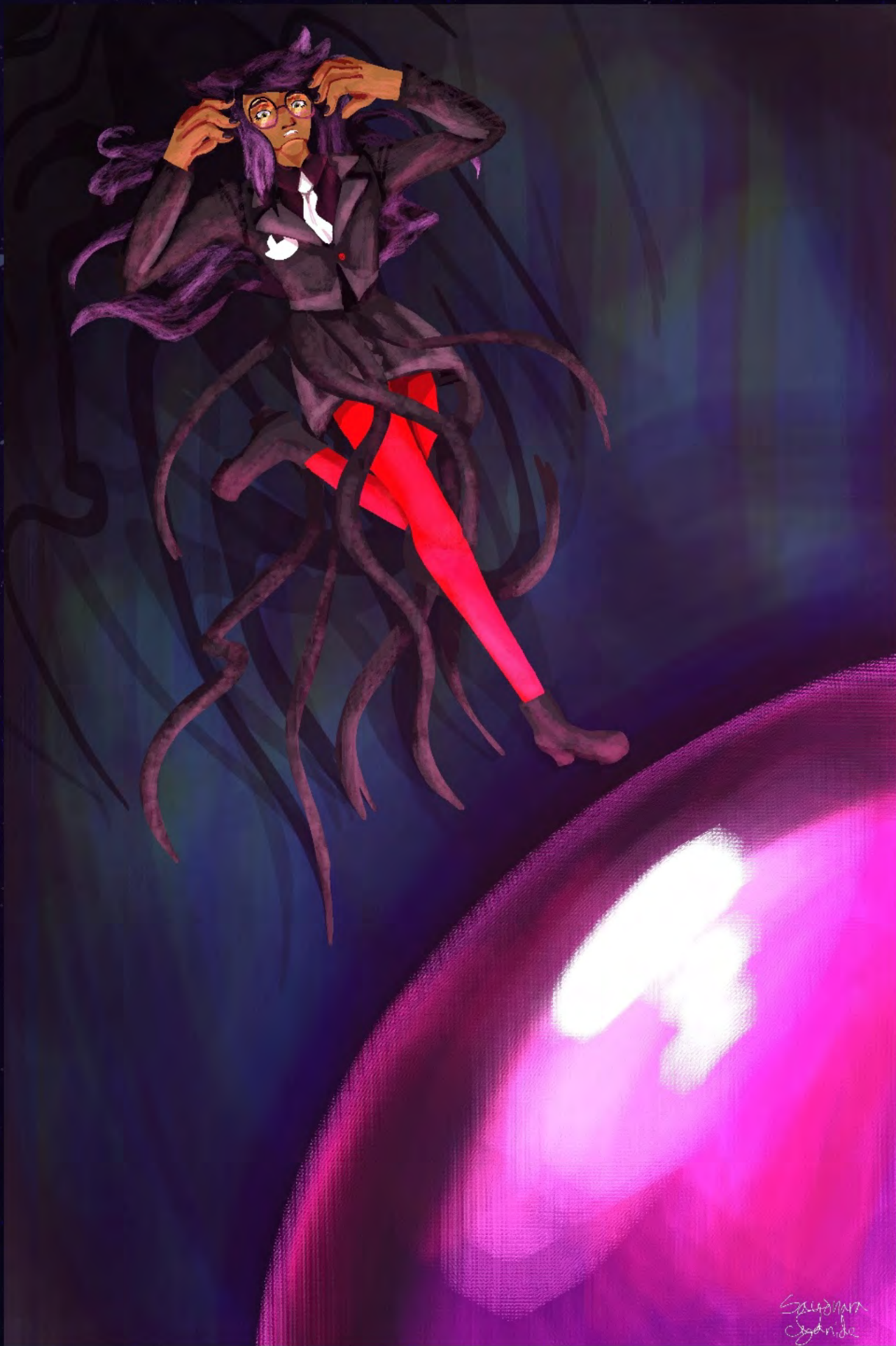
Ellie





Julien





Ben

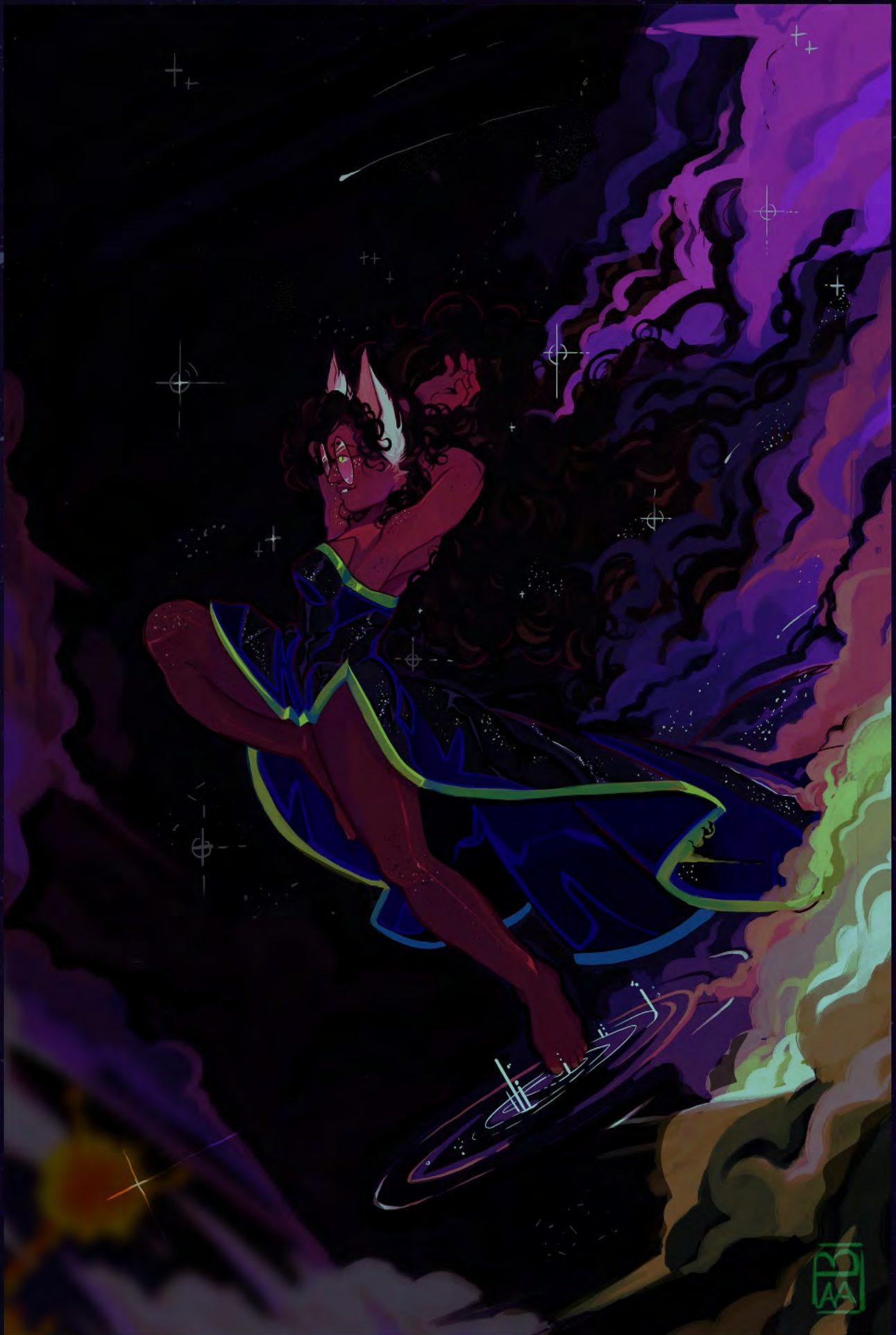


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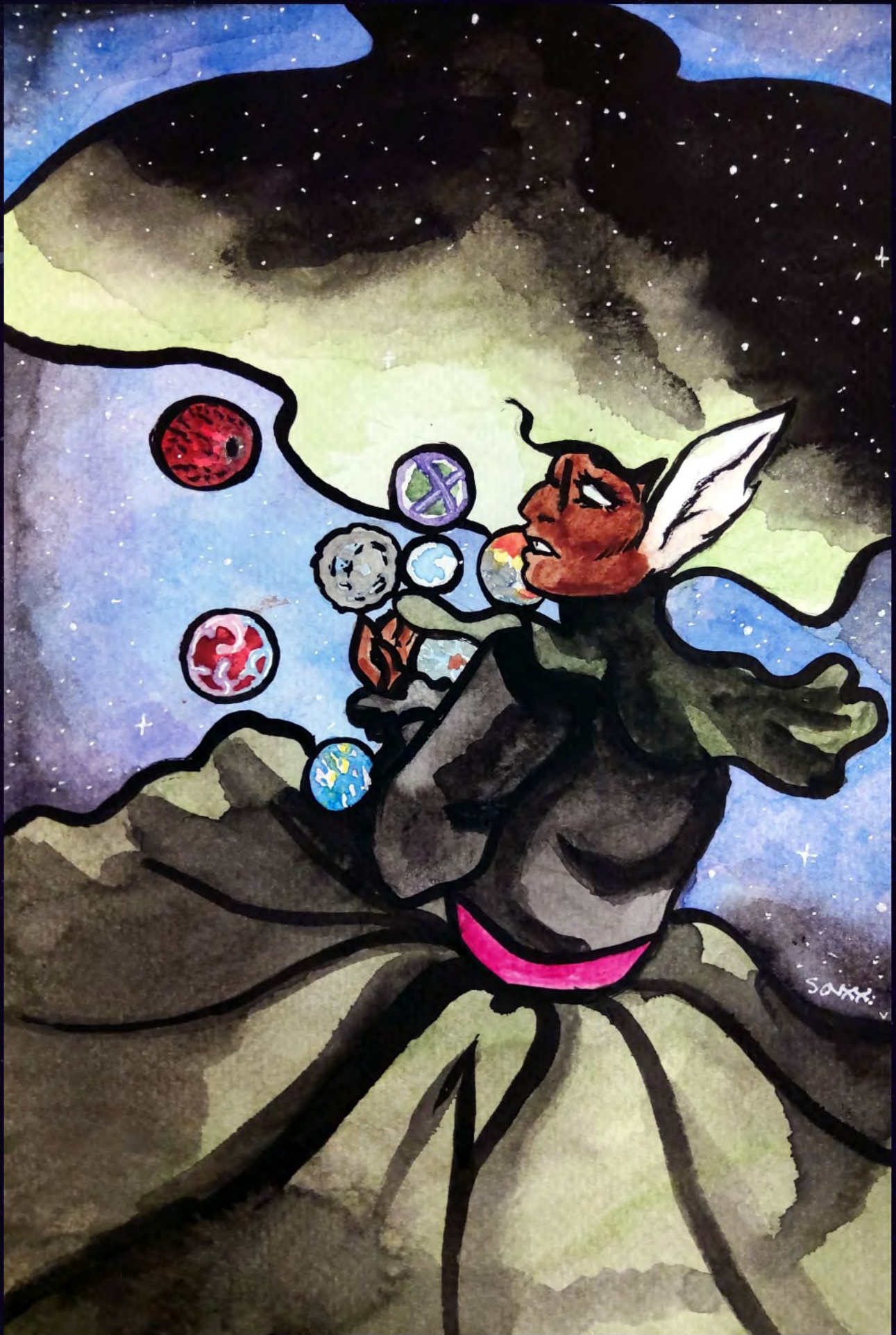
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DeadPossumCo



ArtsicFox





cuervus.tumblr.com

twitter.com/cuervus

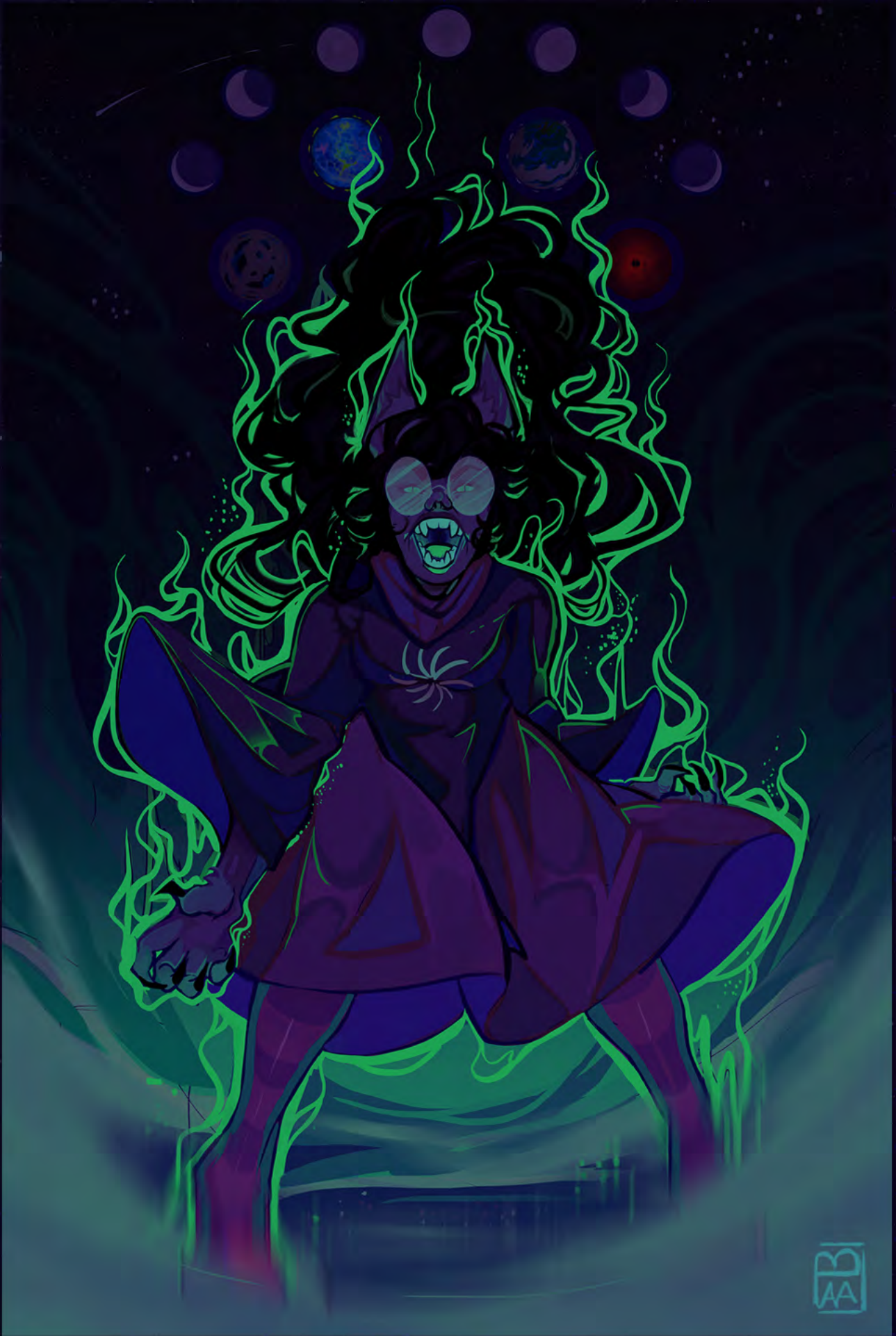


Alina



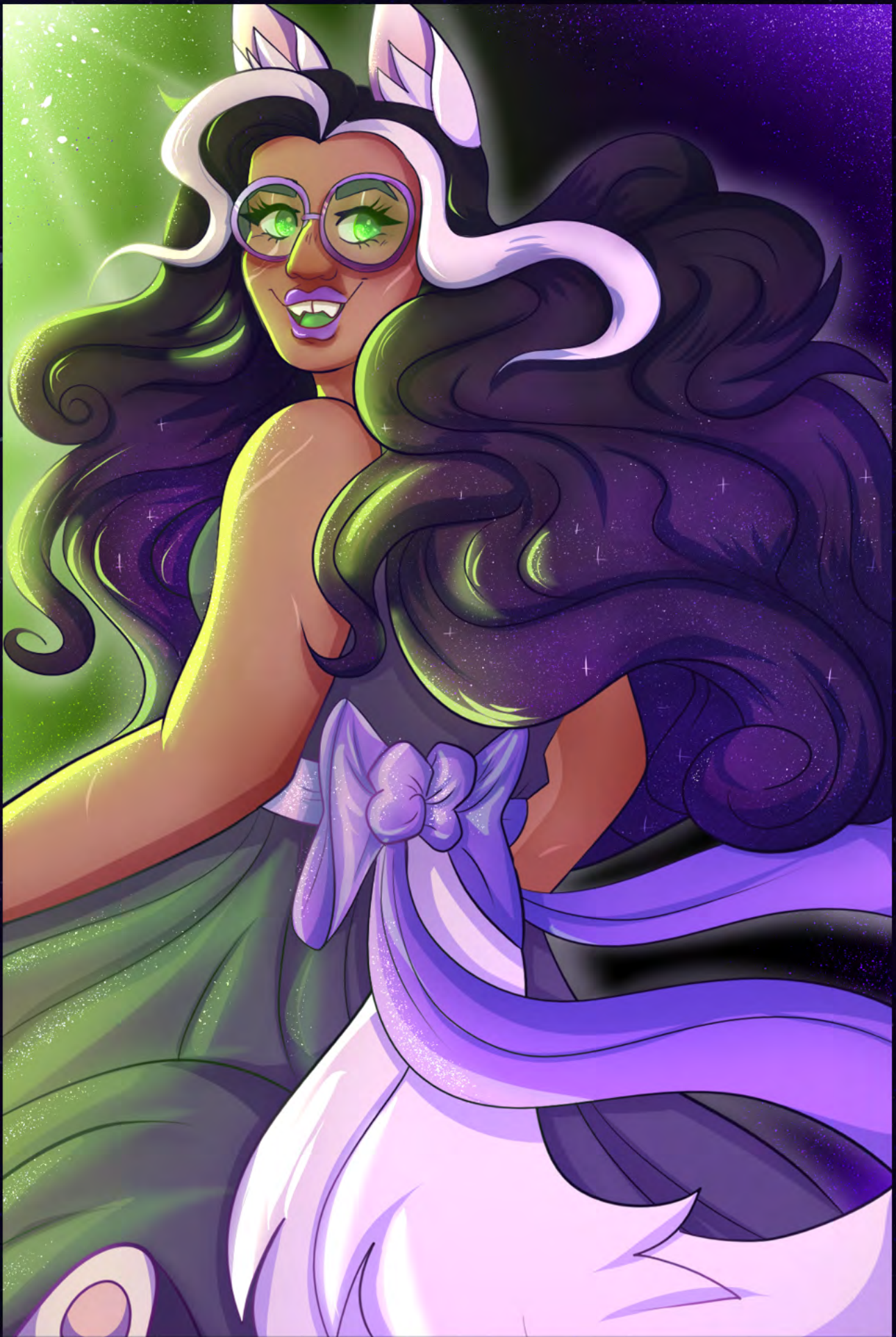






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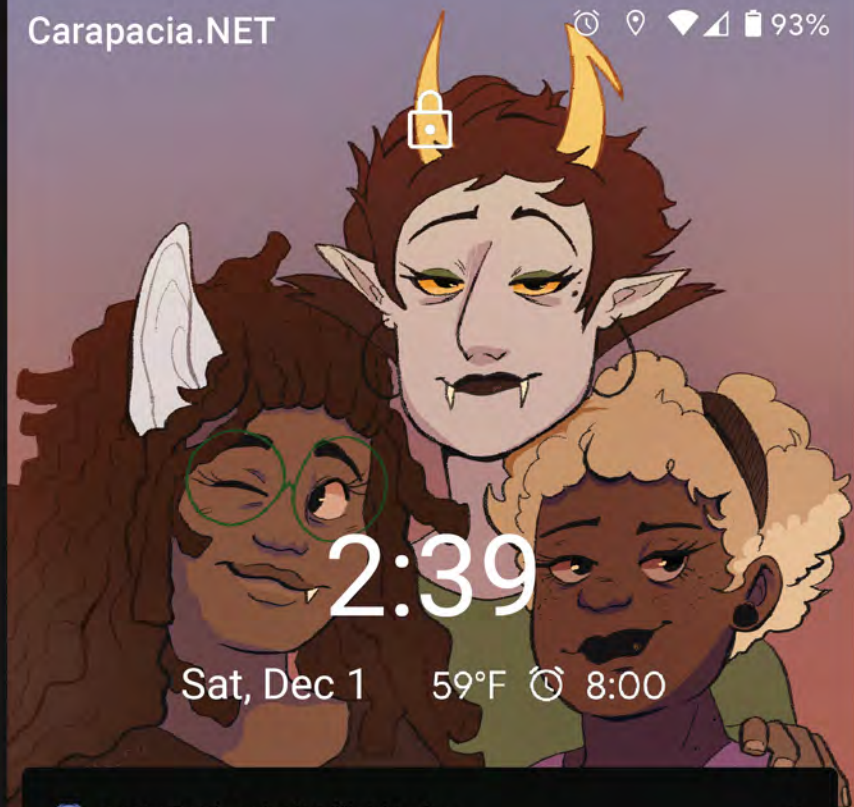












2:39

Sat, Dec 1

59°F 🕒 8:00



pesterCord • grimAuxilliatrix • 1m



grimAuxilliatrix

No Jade This Is A Recorded Auto Response Message
I Am Learning To Do More Human Things

I Run Away

From Myself

Writing & Design

Jonaya Riley

Twitter: @AltUniverseWash

JonayaRiley.carrd.co

Additional Art (PFP and lock screen)

Cro

Twitter: @yoitscro

I Run Away From Myself (1)

🕒 📍 📶 🔋 93%

☰ @grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley

I don't know what to do now...

Why? Aren't you happy?

Jade Harley

Well, when you're awake I need to tell you...

Of course I'm happy!

I've never been happier!

Jade Harley

Are you trying to convince me... or yourself?

Kanaya Maryam

What Did You Want To Talk About?

Stop it! I'm not trying to convince anyone!

Lonely?

But?

But it's...

Complicated



Message @grimAuxilliatrix





@grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley Today at 2:38 am

Are you still up?



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:39 am

No Jade This Is A Recorded Auto Response Message
I Am Learning To Do More Human Things
Like Mislead People Regarding My Wakefulness



Jade Harley Today at 2:39 am

Well, when you're awake I need to talk to you.
WANT to talk to you.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:40 am

Jade That Was A Human Joke
I Have Fooled You Because I Was Actually Responding All Along
I Misled You But In A Way Which Provided Momentary Amusement



Jade Harley Today at 2:41 am

Oh! 8B



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:41 am

What Did You Want To Talk About?



Jade Harley Today at 2:42 am

Kanaya, do you ever feel...
Lonely?



Message @grimAuxilliatrix



@grimAuxilliatrix

How is it complicated?

Not saying that to be facetious - I genuinely don't know
your meaning here

you know what... never mind...

I feel like I should feel different now

just that it's kinda important

Everyone's figuring their shit out

Rose and Kanaya are so good to me

But...

You still feel like something's not right?

Yeah...



Message @grimAuxilliatrix





@grimAuxilliatrix



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:44 am

I Am Unsure Of The Meaning Behind This



Jade Harley Today at 2:44 am

You know what... never mind...



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:44 am

Jade This Is Obviously Important
This Is Not A Typical Time Of Day To Have Mundane Conversations
Either Of The Human Sort Or Otherwise



Jade Harley Today at 2:45 am

Yeah
Just
I dunno



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:45 am

Would It Help To Reassure You That I Love You Very Much?
Rose As Well
Although She Is Presently Asleep



Jade Harley Today at 2:45 am

Okay, but...
Why?



Message @grimAuxilliatrix



I Run Away From Myself (5)

93%



@grimAuxilliatrix



Kanaya Maryam

What/What?

It just feels like things should maybe be different

Like, I'm out here talking to you

And I'm back there, talking to Kanya

Jade Harley

I feel like I'm two people at the same time

But how many the first one.

It's a disconcerting experience, I'm sure



Jade Harley

Yeah

Don't patronize me!

I'm sorry, that wasn't my intention



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Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:46 am

Why What?



Jade Harley Today at 2:46 am

Why do you both love me?
I'm not saying I don't believe you but...
Why?!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:47 am

Is This More Of An Existential Question Or Do You Just Want Me To
Tell You How Beautiful You Are?



Jade Harley Today at 2:48 am

Stop it... I'm blushing now!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:48 am

A Normal Response I Am Told



Jade Harley Today at 2:48 am

I... thank you.
But no... more the first one.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:49 am

The Question Of One's Essential Worthiness Of Love?



Jade Harley Today at 2:49 am

Yeah...



Message @grimAuxilliatrix



I Run Away From Myself (7)

93%

@grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley

I guess I'm used to everything being something I have to do myself.

I was supposed to figure all this stuff out!

Like I'm the woman who's in this relationship

But I'm still also the girl alone on the island

It doesn't feel like I've **EARNED** anything!



Jade Harley

First how did you deal with it? You always look like you've got your stuff so TOGETHER!

Why is that important to you –

the feeling of earning your own happiness?

Not my HAPPINESS exactly, but...

I don't know, okay!

Isn't it, though? Isn't that how it feels?

Message @grimAuxilliatrix



@grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley Today at 2:52 am

I guess I'm used to everything being something I have to do myself, you know?
Like I was saying before, I don't feel like I've earned it!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:52 am

I Do Not Recall You Saying That Before



Jade Harley Today at 2:52 am

Oh shit... sorry. Thought I said that.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:54 am

Regardless I Think I Understand The Essential Meaning
And I Empathize With How You Feel
Having Been Made To Feel A Very Similar Way About Nearly
Everything
Alternia Was Not A Kind Place Generally Speaking



Jade Harley Today at 2:55 am

Then how did you deal with it? You always look like you've got your stuff so *together*!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:55 am

I Find Appearance And Reality Are Often Quite Divorced From One Another



Message @grimAuxilliatrix





Are you saying I haven't earned happiness yet?

I feel like I'm always about to fall apart all of the time, kawaii!

What? **No!** That's not something you have to **EARN** in the first place!

Don't you think you're worthy of that just by virtue of existing?

I don't know! It's been so much happening one thing after another and

I don't know!

The world ends, I'm in the game, I'm a god...

I just feel like I slipped through

the cracks of the world at some point

Here I am... out here... but also I'm still there

It's...

Disconcerting?

Terrifying

And it's so lonely!



@grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley Today at 2:58 am

I feel like I'm always about to fall apart all of the time, Kanaya!
Look at how I acted when I tried to tell Rose how I felt!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:58 am

I Will Admit That Was Awkward
But Charming In A Highly Endearing Way
Also The End Result Was Pleasant I Would Say



Jade Harley Today at 2:58 am

Blushing!!!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 2:58 am

A Normal Human Response As I Said Before



Jade Harley Today at 3:03 am

God I don't deserve you.
I don't deserve Rose.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:03 am

That Is An Objectively Untrue Statement
Why Are You Spreading Human Lies In My Good Christian PesterCORD
Chat?



Message @grimAuxilliatrix



I guess it's that I don't really belong anywhere

I was alone growing up – grandpa died when I was a baby and...

I dunno, Bec was nice but Bec was also a dog
God-like dog with powers, **but still a dog!**

Everything I had to figure out...

no one ever gave me any real feedback!

Not for the longest time!

Yeah, I can't say I understand precisely but...
I do understand loneliness

And feeling like you're just on your own

**Like, even the silliest stuff –
like, I always knew I was a girl,**

and then I get on the Internet and
suddenly people were telling me there's
reasons I couldn't be one
and I didn't know how to feel about that!

**And then other people were telling me it's okay –
there's a word for that!**

**I feel like I'm was being told I couldn't just be myself
by half the people and that I'm fine by the other half!**



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I understand... maybe more than I'd like to admit



@grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley Today at 3:06 am

You always do this!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:06 am

I Am Sorry
I Do Not Know What It Is I Always Do



Jade Harley Today at 3:06 am

Yes you do!!!
You're always so...
So goddamn...
ARGH!



Jade Harley Today at 3:08 am

You're so fucking *good to me* all the time!
Why are you like that?!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:08 am

I Was Under The Impression That Positive Feelings Were Typically
Appreciated By Human Partners
I Know The Quadrant System Is Somewhat Different But That Is A
Thing I Was Quite Sure Of



Jade Harley Today at 3:09 am

No no, that's not it!
It's not that I don't appreciate it!
I don't deserve it!!!



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So everything happens and of course...
I guess I figure that's how it's supposed to be?

Who am I?

Just some silly girl who thought she could fit in with other people, maybe

Lynn Far From Perfect

And I just end up alone again for so long, or under the Condesce's control!

I'm so sorry I might be hurting you, right? That's it?

You don't feel like you ever got to live as yourself?

Jade

Can You Please Listen To Me For At Least A Minute?

**Yeah! Even though I guess I did growing up –
but I was a child!**

And I was still trying to sort things out and spent
years tearing myself apart over it!

Do you have any idea how many times I wished things could just... end?

I do understand how you feel... yes

Is that why I'm out here?

What?

Don't do this

You saw who I was and what I'd been through...
and some part of you latched onto it

That's why I'm here, isn't it?



@grimAuxilliatrix



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:10 am

Please Stop Saying That Jade
It Is Not True



Jade Harley Today at 3:11 am

Of course you'll say that, because you're fucking perfect!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:11 am

I Am Far From Perfect



Jade Harley Today at 3:11 am

I'm so sorry - I'm just bothering you, right? That's it?



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:12 am

Jade
Can You Please Listen To Me For At Least A Minute?



Jade Harley Today at 3:12 am

I'm sorry, I'm sorry!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:12 am

Please Do Not Say That
It Is Just
I Understand How You Feel
Probably Better Than You Know



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Please don't do this

I'm not a child anymore and I...
I feel like I know things about you

Things I have no right to know!
I can see things about me, but they're not about me!

Does that make sense?

Yes

I'm sorry, you're the first person I've spoken to in this exact situation

lade Harley

That's a strangely specific way of putting it

kanaya Maryam

It's a long story

It's complicated, you might say



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Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:13 am

I Know We Haven't Spoken Much On My Time In The Brooding Caves
Or Much About How Trolls Perceive Gender
It Is A Complicated Matter To Address When Dealing With A Species
So Alike And Yet So Different In Many Ways
Suffice To Say I Was Raised In A Way That Was Highly Isolating And
Not Unlike Your Own



Jade Harley Today at 3:15 am

Yeah, I guess I never really asked you about how you grew up.
Does that make me a shitty girlfriend?



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:15 am

No I Find It To Be Completely Immaterial To Your Qualities As A
Girlfriend
A Thing I Must Say You Are Exemplary At In All Ways



Jade Harley Today at 3:16 am

80



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:17 am

I Do Not Understand The Relevance Of The Number Eighty



Jade Harley Today at 3:17 am

No, see, like, it's my face with my glasses and I'm making a
"whaaaaat?" mouth because of what you just said.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:18 am

Oh
I See
Now I Am Blushing



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I doesn't matter that much

I don't know who or what you are, exactly,
but I think I get it

Some kind of cosmic being that oversees everything

Except you're kinda not?

I feel like at the end of the day you're just...

Kind of a girl like me?

Saying "girl" might be being a bit generous at my age,
but I'd say that's basically right

And yes, I think that you're in a unique position as far as the overlap of
your personal story and mine... at least in certain key elements



Jade Hanny

you told me about it. I hope you're internet were so funny to me.

So you were raised by a dog with space powers too?

What? No, I...

Oh, you're joking



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Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:19 am

My Point Is That I Was Born As What You Might See As A Male
I Was Expected To Fill A Certain Role In Society
But It Never Felt Right To Me
I Believe In The Terminology Rose Has Used You Would Call Me An
Ovary



Jade Harley Today at 3:20 am

A WHAT?!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:20 am

You Know
The Thing That Cluckbeasts Lay
An Ovaloid Protein Containment Shell?



Jade Harley Today at 3:21 am

An egg?
You're saying you were an egg?
OMG!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:22 am

Yes
An Egg In The Metaphorical Sense
And Then A Woman In The Literal Sense
Once I Realized That Was An Option
Alternia Is Similar To Earth In That Respect
Also In That I Was Not Treated Especially Well For It



Jade Harley Today at 3:22 am

God tell me about it. People on the Internet were so shitty to me!



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@grimAuxilliatrix

I guess I saw what you were going through
and I felt some connection to it

Coming from a much less fantastical version of events but...

I know what it feels like to feel powerless

To wonder whether I'm just supposed to suffer alone forever

To think I'm not worthy of basic affection

You're Considered Kind And Kind

But the difference is...

God...

I don't know but there's a difference!

Did You Ever Stop To Consider Why Rose Was Friends With You In
The First Place?

Is there?



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Jade Harley Today at 3:26 am

I always wondered if it would've been different to have grandpa around.
Or my parents.
But I guess my parents were... I guess that wasn't really a normal situation, was it?



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:26 am

My Mother Was A Giant Bug
Such As These Things Go
It Is Not The Situation We Come From But Rather That Which We
Find Ourselves In
Not Who We Were Forced To Associate With But Who We Choose To
Associate With



Jade Harley Today at 3:27 am

Great, but that doesn't explain why you associate with me!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:27 am

Because You Are A Wonderful Woman
You Are Considerate And Kind
You Are A Delight To Speak With
You Are A Considerate And Thoughtful Lover



Jade Harley Today at 3:27 am

BLUSHING!!!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:28 am

Your Physiological Response To My Comment Is Noted
In Any Case You Are A Genuine And Good Person



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:30 am

Did You Ever Stop To Consider Why Rose Was Friends With You In
The First Place?



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Of course there is!

The difference is...

I don't deserve this

What I have

Jade – everyone deserves to be able to live as themselves
And everyone deserves to be happy with who they are
Everyone deserves people that care about them

You say that!

Kanaya says that!

Rose says that!

Why the hell can't I BELIEVE it?!

Because believing good things about ourselves
is usually harder than the opposite

It's a product of being told we're not worth it for a long enough time



@grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley Today at 3:30 am

No, I guess I didn't think about that.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:31 am

Do You Consider Rose To Be A Person Of Spectacularly Bad Judgement?



Jade Harley Today at 3:31 am

No.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:31 am

Does She Seem Thoughtless In Who She Chooses To Allow Into Her Life?



Jade Harley Today at 3:31 am

No, obviously.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:31 am

Would You Say She Has Poor Choice In Partners Generally Speaking?



Jade Harley Today at 3:32 am

Oh way to call me all the way out, Kanaya.
Fine.
No.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:33 am

Then What Makes You So Utterly Certain That You Are The Sole Exception To This?
As Opposed To The Alternative
That You Are Worthy Of Care And Affection As Much As Anyone Else



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Okay, so maybe I can't think
of some big reason
why I feel like this!

So fucking what?!

I don't think there has to be a big reason
We feel how we feel, sometimes
For lots of reasons
Sometimes for no real reason at all

But that doesn't make the way we talk down to ourselves valid

Great – tell that to my stupid brain then!

I think you're worthy of being loved, Jade Harley
Just as much as your lovers, or your sister, or your friends
I have no interest in wallowing in your further abuse and degradation

How perverse would I be to want that?



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Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:33 am

And What About Myself?
Would You Say I Am A Woman Of Uncertain Character?
Perhaps Of Somewhat Loose Morals?



Jade Harley Today at 3:34 am

God - stop it! You're just being silly now!
You're one of the most amazing people I know!
I would trust you with... god...
With who I am.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:34 am

With Your Truest Self?



Jade Harley Today at 3:34 am

Yes!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:34 am

Blushing
Exclamation Point



Jade Harley Today at 3:34 am

Stop it!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:37 am

If That Is The Case Then Perhaps My Judgement On Your Own
Character Bears Repeating
At The Risk Of Repeating Myself
I Love You
All Of Who You Are And Who You Have Been
All Of The Promise You Hold For The Future
The Same Way That I Love Rose
Completely And Without Reservation



Message @grimAuxilliatrix



It's not that I don't want it... it just feels so weird

What if I screw something up?

What if something goes wrong?



Kanaya Maryam

A thinking idiot

And One I Must Admit I have Perhaps Encountered

Then that's what happens.

We live and we make ourselves vulnerable

Sometimes we get hurt because of that

But closing yourself off from the world...

you know how much that hurts already



Kanaya Maryam

Yeah...

You said you trust her

I do!

Then trust her!

Vulnerability isn't weakness, Jade

...and shutting yourself off isn't strength



@grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley Today at 3:38 am

Okay, so here's the thing...
I'm afraid of so much - of being lonely or being hurt.
But I think the thing I'm most afraid of...



Jade Harley Today at 3:39 am

I think I'm afraid that the people I love will hate me...
And they won't say anything because they're too nice.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:40 am

A Terrifying Thought
And One I Must Admit I Have Perhaps Entertained



Jade Harley Today at 3:40 am

Kanaya - can you promise me something?



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:40 am

I Can Promise And Do All In My Power To Hold To It



Jade Harley Today at 3:42 am

Can you just... please tell me if you stop wanting to be around me?
I promise I won't be mad. Just please don't hide it from me.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:43 am

That One Of The Women I Love Most Dearly Would Linger In
Darkness
Unaware Of The Cruel Fate Which Befalls Her?
I Would Sooner Face The Long Death Than Put Either Of You In That
Position



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I know we've talked before...

I guess we'll probably talk again, right?

I don't want to be weird here,
I know it's only been a few months!

Maybe – who's to say?

I Stand By My Statements

I wouldn't mind that, I think

Kanaya Maryam

Neither would I, Jade

I think... I think I feel a little better now

Sometimes we need to bare our souls

Just the smallest amount



Message @grimAuxilliatrix





@grimAuxilliatrix



Jade Harley Today at 3:45 am

Kanaya, I love you too.
A lot... I mean... a whole lot.
I don't want to be weird here.
I know it's only been a few months!



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:45 am

That Is Immaterial To Your Feelings
Or Mine For That Matter
I Stand By My Statements



Jade Harley Today at 3:46 am

Kanaya... thanks. For everything.



Kanaya Maryam Today at 3:46 am

Of Course
It Is My Sincere Hope That Rose And I Will See You Later Today
For Lunch And Maybe Other Things That Are Not Technically Lunch
It Is After All Your Human Birth Day
When One Traditionally Receives Gifts
Of A Sort
Wink



Jade Harley Today at 3:47 am

Oh god oh god
Blushing!



Message @grimAuxilliatrix



Look For Me In The Stars

Written by Starry

If you asked who Jade Harley was, you would find that there are whispers of her magnitude and how grand her reach was across the universe. They tell tales of the Witch of Space and how she saved her friends alongside creating a new world, and praise her name whenever they think of how gorgeous their world is.

In reality, she's...

Well.

An olive-blood troll makes her way through the grocery aisle on Earth C, double-checking cans before catching sight of a human at the end. The human tilts her head at a box of dog treats, ears flicking on the top of her head, and the troll freezes dead in her tracks.

That...looks like the Witch of Space. I think it's a really good cosplay though. Is there a con going on? I can't believe I met a really good cosplayer, I wonder if she's popular on any social media—

The Witch of Space cosplayer looks up and the troll balks at how excited she seems. The girl hurries on over with two cans in her hands, white fluffy dog ears pointed directly up. "Hey there!" She says excitedly, grinning with two buck teeth. The troll quietly admires the commitment to the cosplay and clears her throat when she catches sight of the long-tipped claws. "Hello...?"

"Sorry to bother you!" The cosplayer replies. "I just needed to ask which one would you prefer? It's my friend's birthday coming up, and I really want to surprise him with some Alternian food. Which one do you suggest?"

The troll gives a quick nod and goes over the food in the girl's hands. "Well, you've got two different kinds of Grub Sauce in your hands, so you could do two different flavors for whatever you're making. I'm going to guess Beefgrub...?"

"Something like that," the girl grins. "I just need something yellow enough to, and bear with me here, look like piss. An inside joke with a friend! It won't actually be piss, but I need to convince him long enough that it is."

The troll nods slowly. Her life is fucking weird. "Alright, then. Uh, there's mind honey on aisle seven if you're into that. Can he handle it? I heard it's a bit much for trolls who have never had it before."

"He's human," the Witch of Space cosplayer responds. She sniffs at the cans before setting one in her basket; wait, that wasn't there before? There's a pumpkin insignia on it and—wait. It's gone. The troll blinks once, twice, and feels something shudder in her. "He's human?"

"Yep! He'll be fine, I swear." The cosplayer waves her off. "It'll be fine. If he dies, he can just come back again. I don't think it'll be a Just or Heroic death; if he goes out from that, then I'd really be impressed!"

The troll nods again and starts backing away. "That's good! Um, is that all you needed from me?"

"Hm? Oh, yeah! I'm good!" The Witch of Space cosplayer smiles brightly. "Thank you! John's going to be so excited to prank Dave again, we didn't do it for the past three years to get his guard down and now we're ready to strike."

"...You're really into the whole cosplay thing, huh." The troll laughs nervously. "At least you're dedicated?"

"Cosplay?" The girl looks down at her outfit and wrinkles her nose. "Oh, no; I'm the real deal! Nice to meet you, I'm Jade Harley and I'm the Witch of Space. I kinda expanded this entire world with my friends and family. I think it's going well so far!"

“...Okay.”

“Ooh, right, you’ll need an example.” The Jade Harley cosplayer snaps her fingers and makes the troll’s basket grow bigger. The troll yelps and goes to grab the over-spilling grubsteak from the sides, making sure it doesn’t hit the ground. “What the—”

“Sorry, I didn’t want to zap anything with electricity!” Jade Harley floats a few inches off the ground, feet trailing behind her. There’s a spark in her vivid green eyes and it makes the troll gulp in shock. “But yeah, that’s me! I’m sorry if I scared you though, I usually just eat whatever’s in the pantry but we actually ran out. Kinda crazy if you ask me, but Karkat eats a lot when he gets worked up!”

“The Knight of Blood,” the troll says faintly. “Cool. Alright. Can you tell him he’s got an admirer? He’s done a lot for trollkind and we really appreciate it.”

“Oh absolutely!” Jade says cheerfully, like she hasn’t just changed this troll’s entire life in the manner of a few minutes. “I’ll let him know. Thank you for the help!”

With that, she pops out of existence and leaves behind the troll staring into space. It takes her a few moments to get her bearings back, and then she whips open her crab phone, speaking urgently into the receiver. “Abbira, you’re never going to believe this—”

X

Jade Harley is a lot of things. She’s a sister, a grandma, and she might even be a clone. She’s been through a lot of shit by the age of 16, but now she’s 22 and still getting adjusted to life on Earth C. She bred the Genesis Frog and made their entire world to ensure that everyone in her session and the Alpha session would live to see another day.

She’s a Witch of Space who likes to pop in and out of locations; Dave jumps a few seconds forward and back, since he’s still working his way up to days, and John tends to vanish into the breeze sometimes when he’s feeling flighty or when he

forgets to stay in this particular reality. Even Jade's powers don't extend to what the Heir of Breath experiences, and she'd rather stay that way.

Regardless, Jade Harley used to be the loneliest girl in the world.

And now she's surrounded by people who love and care about her.

Life in the Troll Kingdom is quite fun, actually! She learned about troll culture through Karkat, who did his best to explain since he stayed indoors all the time, and whenever Kanaya came over from the Carapacian Kingdom to show off her outfits and talk with everyone else. They were all technically royalty, as Jade still kept her original title as Princess of Prospit, but she kept to the wilderness and liked to sleep with the stars over her head.

"It's cathartic!" She'd explain to the Betas.

"You're a furry if you stay out there in the woods, but we love you anyways." Dave's response had been. Rose had fired back with a retort that Dave was close enough to a scalie, since his boyfriend was modeled after an insect, and that started a war between the two Derse kids since Rose was also married to Kanaya. John had laughed so hard he cried, and Jade had watched them with a mixture of amusement and gratefulness.

It was strange actually having her friends with her. After talking to them through the computer for so long, getting to spend time with them was eye-opening. She was able to excitedly throw her hands in the air and almost knock someone out with the force of her fists. It's so strange and dazzling to get to be around them, and no pixels get to obstruct their gorgeous faces.

John had told her that she's the version of Jade that survived their Game Over timeline. Jade herself feels like she did; there's something in her that aches but it feels right, even if her John and Davesprite were taken out on LOWAS. It still hurts whenever she thinks about smoking ruins on the floor of a Prospitan ship, and sometimes her ribs feel like they're cracked. "It's a remnant of the timeline," John had explained

one time. “Aranea crushed you with your own house and you apparently couldn’t revive, so you died pretty early! All of us feel our former deaths sometimes. You’re not alone in that!”

And although it was a bit disconcerting, Jade did feel better when her feelings and experiences were completely validated. It was a way of saying; we know what you went through, we understand, and we love you regardless.

Jade Harley finds that she meshes well with everyone she originally grew up with. She counters John’s flightlessness with her own constant float, and how often she’s used to objects vanishing, and easily understands Dave and Rose’s ramblings to reply with a retort and send Dave into fits of laughter, and gets along with the Alphas in their own way.

(She doesn’t know it, but she inspires Jake to be more confident, for Dirk to strive for an understanding of humans as actual breathing people instead of a concept, for Roxy to be brave and want to save others while Jane is so happy of having a family to officially be proud of, free from the Batterwitch’s clutches.)

Jade gets along with the trolls too; she and Terezi hit it off like a house on fire, shamelessly flirting and making fun of each other while dealing with Vriska, whose exasperation (yet subtle fondness) is always hilarious to make fun of.

There’s also Kanaya, who shares an aspect with Jade with Space and enjoys bonding over the miniscule things. Kanaya sometimes also needed to get out and go for a lovely adventure in the woods, and Jade was always there to join her, tail wagging and bouncing around in excitement.

And Karkat...

Karkat Vantas. Someone Jade can consider a best friend, someone who taught her to keep pushing forward regardless of how the world was against her. Even with his short stature (and how Dave kept making fun of him, laughing when Karkat would swat him with claws and yell), he always made Jade feel like they were on the same playing field.

Jade is a leader in her own right, but not like John; she takes the lead in science and adventure, using her childhood and smarts to formulate ideas and continue working on projects she wanted to finish before SBURB became her whole life.

What is a Witch of Space when their purpose is fulfilled? What happens when the Genesis Frog is glowing brightly in the eye of the universe, content and happy in the middle of the Battlefield? Jade's honestly not sure if they should have beaten their session (and they shouldn't have, they cheated SBURB and still managed to come out on top with a new world on top of it all) but she's definitely not going to look a gift horse in the mouth.

She had asked Kanaya once, sat in her home with Rose and surrounded by cats, if Kanaya had felt the change in her own aspect. "It feels like a rift, a black hole of some kind," Jade had admitted, nervously wringing her hands in her (incredibly deep) pockets. Rose had made them; a gift, since apparently women's clothing were not intended to be practical in the slightest.

"It's a travesty against fashion," Rose had said when giving Jade her pants. "The concept of women's pockets have been a sore subject for years, Jade. Why insist on having pockets when they hold practically nothing? Where else am I going to slip my wands and tarot cards when I need them at a moment's notice?"

"You could use a purse," Jade had replied, and laughed her ass off when Rose gave a genuine noise of disgust and promptly went to commission her wife for a pair of pants with pockets.

"I believe I understand what you mean," Kanaya responded. "There's a certain twist in my chest that feels unnatural. It might be due to not having a beating muscle anymore, but Rose has assured me that she feels the same with her own Light. There are no more corners of knowledge to reach from, and we are all restless in our own creation."

There was a pause before Jade muttered, "Fuck, I hate Space sometimes," and Kanaya had laughed so hard she cried, wiping away translucent green tears with a claw.

Nowadays, it's different. There's still a shift in her chest that resonates with the night sky and all that sits under it. It's the protectiveness settled into her bones that causes her to zap around at night, ensuring that all her friends are safe and under no harm in their homes. It's hard sometimes; she's lost her Green Sun powers, which in essence came from Becquerel, but she still knows he's there in the fluff of her ears and tail alongside how she'll use her enhanced senses to live and tease her friends about.

Jade Harley is a genius. She has plenty of projects she never had the opportunity to finish, and takes to them so easily when she wants to. There's no Scratch to be concerned about, and there aren't several evil people going after them. (There's also the faint whisper of Grimbark lurking in the back of her mind, and she keeps it at bay with her fangs and rage.

You will never take control of me again, she snarls, claws outstretched. I'm the fucking Witch of Space, Propsit's dreaming royalty, and I will fucking bite the SHIT out of you. I'm better than you and I earned my right to be here. Fuck OFF.)

So. She has time to grow the garden she's always dreamed about, and gets to work digging up dirt and burying seeds. After a hilarious conversation with Roxy and Jake about where exactly her pumpkins had been going, Jade's determined to turn a section of land outside the Troll Kingdom into a huge garden full of so many plants and vegetables.

She also turns to inventing, getting along with Dirk and Roxy with her ideas and planning. The three will spend hours staying up, empty energy cans scattered off to the side, and do their best to keep each other in check.

"Solar energy is a viable energy source!" Jade would argue, throwing her hands into the air. "Dirk, we can't exactly power stuff with fuckin' Mountain Dew!"

"It would be pretty cool though," Roxy would laugh, tapping a pencil against the planning paper. "I'm kinda sad we shot down your radioactive idea; you said you

used to feed your dog radioactive steak and I think it would've worked!"

Dirk would pinch the bridge of his nose, exasperated. "No, Roxy, that wouldn't have worked. We're morons. We're so stupid. How are we so goddamn smart and yet so fucking dumb?"

Jade loved their meetings.

Those meetings would also end up with the kids and trolls dragging them to get some rest, because they'd forget to sleep and their bloodstream would be more energy drinks/coffee than anything else. If John wasn't available to pop in and zap all three out, Dave would have to drag his brother out and Jane would have to carry both Jade and Roxy away from their table, rolling her eyes affectionately at their whining.

And yet, it's the life Jade always dreamed of having. She's so, so happy just to even be here in the first place. This is the Jade that survived a Scratch reset, one that made it when her alternative timeline selves were killed and stuck in dreambubbles, the one that suffered her friends and family being killed.

Even despite all of SBURB's drawbacks, she'd do it again. If this is the timeline where she ends up with everyone she loves, she'd definitely go through it again and grow together.

(John's the only one with a concept of therapy; everyone else grew up isolated and with a warped sense of the world, and even though John absolutely has his own problems to deal with, he's very insistent on getting everyone to work through their childhood and coping methods.

"As much as it worked on the meteor, I'm not having Vriska Serket talk us through our issues." John joked, but the threat of it was still so huge that Dave immediately signed up and left without a word.)

Jade Harley is living her new life on Earth C, the way she was always intended to, and knows she deserves it. SBURB may have done its best to separate all of them,

with how many doomed selves were killed just to defeat a fucking monstrosity, but she can proudly raise a middle finger to the game construct that got her killed way too many times.

Here she stands, top of the world, floating above her roof. It's peaceful outside, and if she listens closely she can hear Karkat screaming a few floors below. There's a woosh next to her; Dave, also floating, settling down to sit criss-cross. "Whatcha thinkin' about?" He asks, slipping his sunglasses to the top of his head. She grins at the way Dave's pupils dilate before leaning against him.

Before she can say anything, John pops in with Rose at his side. "Oh, is this a Beta night?" He asks, flopping over on their laps. Dave idly pats his face while Rose snorts, doing her best to not get crushed by John. "What're we doing tonight? Stargazing? Watching movies until we get kicked out?"

"Or we can do our video game night," Rose adds, sighing when Dave immediately replies, "Okay, no, we're not doing that because you kick the shit outta me when we play Smash Bros together."

"I'm sorry I'm not a button-mashing asshole, Dave, I have actual strategies that I implement—"

"You can implement my foot up your ass—"

Yeah. There's really no place she'd rather be, so she leans against the Betas and stares up into the sky, content with any plan her idiots want to come up with.

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